

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 24 of 1900

REPORT

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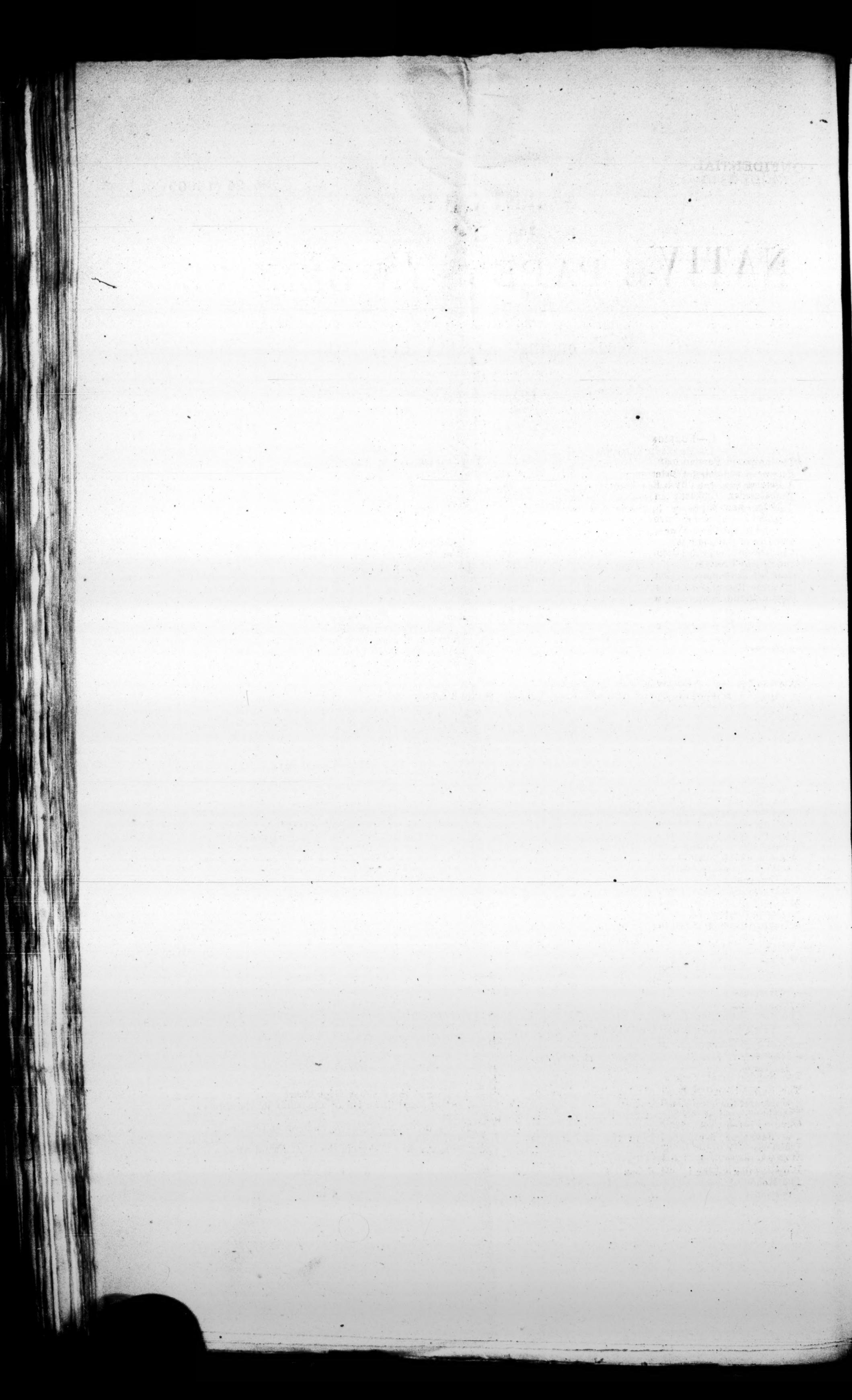
NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th June 1900.

CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.			
The proposed Persian loan	435	(f)—Questions affecting the land—	
Persia not acquiring Western knowledge	ib.	Nil.	
A Persian shot dead by a European Doctor	ib.	(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
The German Embassy in Persia and the <i>Hablut Mateen</i> newspaper	ib.	The Railway Police at the Parbatipur station ... 448	
A probable political disturbance	436	Want of drinking-water at a railway station ... ib.	
The end of the Boer War	A bad road in the Khulna district ... ib.	
The Pretoria rejoicings ...	437		
The Kaiser's congratulations to the Queen ...	ib.		
The fall of Pretoria ...	ib.		
How the Boer question should be settled ...	438		
Indian feeling in the English rejoicings ...	439		
How England should deal with the Boers ...	440		
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.			
(a)—Police—			
A case of police oppression in Chittagong, district ...	ib.	Bengalis forbidden to apply for clerkships in the North-Western Provinces ... ib.	
A rumoured order of the Government of India in the Police Department ...	ib.	Exclusion of Bengalis from the Commissariat Office ... 449	
The Dinapore assault case ...	ib.	The last Provincial Civil Service Examination ... ib.	
A good Sub-Inspector of Police badly treated ...	441	The condition of Bankura and the Lieutenant-Governor's approaching visit to the district ... ib.	
(b)—Working of the Courts—			
Interference with judicial prestige in the Hooghly district ...	ib.	A Government office kept open during certain holidays ... ib.	
Babu Ghanasyam Gupta, Subordinate Judge, Mymensingh ...	ib.	Mr. Gayer, the Superintendent of Stationery ... 450	
The travelling expenses of witnesses in Sessions Courts in Mymensingh ...	ib.	The Pioneer exciting Musalmans against Hindus ... ib.	
A cooly case in Assam ...	ib.	Lord Curzon on the closing of public offices on Christian holidays ... ib.	
Working of the Criminal Courts in the mufassal ...	442		
The District Magistrate of Khulna in a case against a European lady ...	443		
Maulvi Bazlal Karim, Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah	444		
Mr. Godfrey, Subdivisional Officer of Jamtara ...	ib.		
European Soldiers vs. natives in Dinapore ...	ib.		
A Nagri petition rejected in a Meerut Court ...	ib.		
(c)—Jails—			
Nil.			
(d)—Education—			
The Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University	445	(e)—NATIVE STATES.	
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—			
The Subdivisional Officer of Jamalpur, Mymensingh and the local Municipality ...	ib.	Relief operations in Jeypore ... ib.	
Complaints against the Barisal Municipality ...	ib.	(f)—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Government and malaria ...	ib.	The famine in Nagpur ... ib.	
The Jaynagar Municipality in the 24-Parganas district ...	446	Famine relief inadequate ... ib.	
Water-scarcity in the Bengal villages ...	447	A cartoon ... ib.	
Proposed dog-killing in Brindaban ...	ib.		
The Honourable Mr. Oldham as a Municipal Commissioner ...	ib.		
VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.			
A letter on the Government's plague policy translated from the <i>Pioneer</i> ... ib.			
URIA PAPERS.			
A ruling of the Bombay High Court ... 452			
The proposed inclusion of the <i>lathi</i> in the Arms Act ... ib.			
Treatment of native passengers in an accident on the Orissa line ... ib.			
The Ravenshaw College in the B. A. Examination ... ib.			
ASSAM PAPERS.			
Nil.			



I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Habul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 4th June says that Russia is very gladly making preparations for the proposed Persian loan. receiving the Shah, who is expected to visit that country. Perhaps the object of the Shah's visit is to finally decide the loan question. We know Persia to be a rich country and we do not understand why she intends to make a loan. Perhaps it is want of political foresight on the part of the Persian Government which now reduces Persia to the necessity of contracting debts.

2. The same paper says that according to the *Tarbyet* newspaper an ignorant nation like the Persians cannot expect to Persia not acquiring Western knowledge. make progress in Western learning unless they send a number of students to every country in

Europe where there is a seat of learning. It is by a similar method that Japan has, within a few years, become a civilised country. Being zealous to introduce Western knowledge among her people she at first sent a good number of Japanese youths to England, Germany, France and America, where they learnt all the arts and sciences of those countries. She then employed these men to teach their country-men at home all those things.

3. A correspondent of the same paper is sorry to hear that a European Doctor shot dead with his six-barrelled revolver a servant of a Persian official of Rusbt, who came to him for medical treatment for headache.

A mishap like this may be ascribed to Persia's allowing foreigners to settle in that country in large numbers with a view to carry on their professions and she ought to expect worse things than this. This case will give the Persians a good chance of understanding why it is that the *Habul Mateen* is crying. The Persians ought not any more to allow foreigners to strengthen their position in their country, for, if they do, they are sure to reap the bitter fruits of their action.

4. A correspondent of the same paper writes as follows in continuation of what he wrote in a previous issue in connection with the Germany Embassy (see Report on Native Papers for 9th June, paragraph 1):—

The German Embassy in Persia and the *Habul Mateen* newspaper. Ambassador. Time has, to some extent, awakened Persia. She knows that knowledge has enabled Germany to give birth to a hundred Bismarcks every year and that knowledge will enable her too to produce in time many editors like that of the *Habul Mateen* in the course of one year. If you proscribe the *Habul Mateen* to-day, to-morrow you will see a hundred papers in Persia far better than that. You had better give up your design. There are many well-wishers of the paper in Persia, especially at Teheran. If you do that you are sure to get into trouble.

Persian. Yes, I see that if the Persian Government does not proscribe the paper in Persia, we can secure its proscription in India through the British Government.

Amb. I am very sorry to hear a man like you, who are educated and trained in our Embassy, say this. You are saying what is impossible. A true German will never venture to commit such a mischief as is calculated to be an infringement of the international law. We can not require England to do such a thing;

(1) because this is unlawful;
(2) because if we get the English to do this, they, in their turn, will have us do some other thing more unlawful still;

(3) because the European Powers are all rivals of each other, and being such, every such Power secures the service of a man belonging to arival kingdom who is able to supply it with information as to what is going on in that kingdom. If the English, at our instance, stop the paper in one way, they will set its editor against us in another way. If the editor of the paper is your friend, this act of yours will make him your enemy, and if he is your enemy he will renew his hostility with redoubled energy, and in either case you will be a loser, and

(4) because it is true that we can proscribe the paper in India by soliciting England for that purpose, but in that case the paper will cease to come to

HABUL MATEEN,
June 4th, 1900.

HABUL MATEEN.

HABUL MATEEN.

HABUL MATEEN.

Persia. I do not see any necessity for doing this simply for your sake. If what the *Hablul Mateen* said was correct, it would be improper to ruin it, and if what it said was false, its writing will have no effect on the world. Bethink yourself. You can proscribe the paper, but cannot take away its editor's pen and energy, and stop the co-operation of other Persians with him. If you proscribe the paper, its editor will go with these three things to any other country he likes to publish his paper and in that case who will proscribe it again? *Finis.*

The editor observes that as a matter of fact no one is to blame for the supremacy of outlanders in Persia but the Persians themselves. The Persians are really demoralising themselves. They are so indolent and so self-seeking that they do not think at all of the probable consequences of what they are doing, and they can gladly see their community ruined. There are many influential people in Persia who have been seen to do mischief to good people. The Persians are an indolent people. How can a well-wisher of Persia bear to see a downright liar doing mischief to her in the guise of a patriot with the help of a foreigner? Such people ought to know that the *Hablul Mateen* is trying its best to ameliorate the moral, mental and material condition of Persia, their hostility notwithstanding. It is certain that its efforts will be crowned with success, and that its enemy himself or his posterity will feel the consequence of his doings.

Apology.

Although we had received several reliable letters in connection with the action of the German Ambassador in the Shimran and Asadulla Khan's case, we published only a few of them, namely those which appeared in the 5th and 6th numbers of the *Hablul Mateen*. Of late a gentleman who has some connection with this paper has informed us that the question was not very important and the correspondence was not reliable. We therefore ask pardon of the German Embassy.

5. The same paper says that some secret underlies the movements of Russian troops between Afghanistan and the Caucasus regions. The Sultan has also collected his troops in such of his frontiers as touch the Russian frontiers.

Russian's proposed railway through Persia and the extension of the Turkish railways to Mecca forebode a probable political disturbance of a terrible character.

6. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th June has the following:—

HITAVADI,
June 8th, 1900.

The end of the Boer War.

The present century has not witnessed another such war. In comparison with this war, the war between Greece and Turkey or the war between China and Japan sinks into insignificance. That the conflict would end so deplorably was foreseen by the Boers themselves. It was not the desire of conquest that led them to invade the British colonies, and they announced at an early stage of the war that though it was true that they would meet with defeat, still their defeat would be such as would stagger the whole civilised world. The English at first paid no heed to that warning, and their characteristic self-sufficiency led them to count on an easy victory. They underrated the strength of the enemy and despatched a small number of troops and a small quantity of arms and ammunition to reduce him to submission. It was only when they stood on the battlefield face to face with the brave and powerful Boers who were resolved to defend their country that the English found out their mistake. They now saw that the Boer, brave and skilled in the use of his rifle as he was, was not an enemy to be trifled with.

The Boers now went on defeating the English army and capturing whole regiments of British troops. Hundreds of British heroes lost their lives on the battlefield. There was wailing in every English home and there was the greatest anxiety caused by this petty war. But how long would a handful of Boer soldiers protract the struggle? Could the Boers entertain any expectation of success in a conflict with the countless troops, the unbounded wealth and the extraordinary prowess of England? Like the current in the Vaal river, a river of gold and silver coins now began to flow at a rapid rate and crores of rupees were spent. How much longer would the Boers remain firm? The power of men and money is a mighty charm. The charm by

means of which Cabul was conquered and wild and unruly savages are brought under subjection, has brought about the discomfiture of the Boers. Cronje was captured and Krüger has been obliged to fly.

The defeat of the Boers has given us both pleasure and pain. We are pleased because we are becoming victorious. The reverses sustained at the beginning of the war by British officers flushed with the pride of power have, in some measure, taught them humility and directed the attention of the authorities to the necessity of introducing reforms in the army and the arms which are used by them. Now, all these are matters which should please us more or less. We are sorry and pained because the victory that has been won has been purchased by a lavish expenditure of money, by a sacrifice of thousands of invaluable lives, and by plunging in grief almost every distinguished family in England. Can the cry of lamentation that arises from every English home be forgotten and drowned in the mighty din of the national rejoicings consequent on the victory? The heart's grief will not pass away or be forgotten even if hundreds of States like the Transvaal be annexed to the British empire, or even if the edge of that grief be blunted in course of time.

England will receive the congratulations of different nations on her present success. Such accession of friends usually falls to the lot of him who is fortunate enough to secure victory. Even those who look upon England's glory and greatness with the eye of jealousy will not fail to express their respectful felicitations. Such is the way of the world. The powerful get many friends. With the establishment of peace will come the Englishman's opportunity for the display of generosity and noble-mindedness. A suitable opportunity will shortly present itself for showing to the world the difference there is between the power of a barbarous hero bent on revenge and the power of the English people. The world will this time come to see how liberal-minded Englishmen are and how far removed is the Briton from the path of narrow-minded men. This generosity will still more enhance England's glory and make Great Britain true to her name.

7. The *Bangabandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 9th June writes as follows:—

The Pretoria rejoicings. The occupation of Pretoria by the British army is being celebrated with rejoicings all over the British empire. The news is being proclaimed with great pomp and ceremony in different places in India. Calcutta was decked with flowers and flags and all public offices were closed, in order that officials and their assistants might have leisure to express their joy. But flags, flowers and bunting do not express loyalty to the Sovereign. Particularly at this time, when India is in distress and destitution, no native of the country, or, for the matter of that, no foreigner in the service of India who eats her salt, is morally justified in expressing his joy. On one side you find six lakhs of people dying of starvation, while thousands of rupees are, on the other, being wasted in idle pageantry. If victory is to be proclaimed, let it be proclaimed by putting food and water into the mouths of poor starving men, women and children. There is beneficence as well as religious merit in that, and plenty of joy to those who possess feeling hearts. But alas! how few are such men in number!

8. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th June writes as follows:—

The Kaiser's congratulations to the Queen. The Emperor William II of Germany lets no opportunity pass by unused. When in 1895 Dr. Jameson and a party of Englishmen invaded

Johannesburg and were defeated and made prisoners by the Boers, the German Emperor lost no time to wire his congratulations to President Krüger. Now, again, whenever the British army are gaining any signal victory, the Kaiser is prompt in cabling his felicitations to the Queen-Empress. The moment Johannesburg, one of the most important cities owned by his old allies the Boers, fell into the hands of the English, the Emperor sent his congratulations to England.

9. The same paper has the following on the fall of Pretoria:—

The fall of Pretoria. It is all over now. What desires and expectations had Krüger cherished! But they are now all at an end. The day Krüger proclaimed war, the whole world heard his

BANGABANDHU,
June 9th, 1900.

BANGAVASI,
June 9th, 1900.

BANGAVASI.

note of defiance in silence. But what a contrast between that day and this? On the 25th Ashwin last, proudly and boldly did Krüger deliver himself to this effect: "Englishmen, remove your troops from the Transvaal frontier, or I will proclaim war. Englishmen, I will not give you in the Transvaal even the land which may be covered by the point of a needle. To die or to kill—that is the resolution I have taken. Of course, it is I who must die, and it is you to whom my independence must be surrendered, but before I lay down my life or part with my independence, so heavy will be the loss of life on the English side that it will stagger humanity."

Nearly thirty thousand English soldiers have been lost in this war up to the present moment. This heavy loss in killed, wounded and prisoners is really staggering. Was there ever before such enormous loss of soldiers, of Englishmen, within the space of eight months?

For the first five months in this Boer war the Boers evinced the greatest bravery and strategic skill, and this exhibition of Boer power surprised and charmed the whole world.

The investment of Ladysmith, the Stormberg disaster, Lord Methuen's abortive attempt to relieve Kimberley and his subsequent enforced inactivity, all these extorted the admiration of European sovereigns who warmly praised the power and tactics of the Boers.

But a change occurred in the fortunes of Englishmen on the day Lord Roberts assumed the supreme command of the British army and invaded the Free State. The relief of Kimberley and the capture of Cronje followed in quick succession. The Boers were alarmed and perplexed with fear. The death of Joubert, the Boer General, which took place at this time, put an end to all their hopes and expectations. Joubert and Cronje were like the sun and the moon in the Boer firmament, and the disappearance of the two luminaries cast a deep gloom over the Boer republics. Louis Botha was now installed as the Commander-in-Chief of the Boer forces.

Where is now that Long Tom of the Boers the issue of smoke from whose mouth spread consternation among the British troops? Where are now the rows of canon with which Pretoria was guarded on all sides? We were told that every one of these could throw shells to a distance of twelve miles. Why have we been denied the pleasure of witnessing the play and practice of this powerful artillery? There were many encounters last week between Boer and Briton both in the Free State and in the Transvaal during the advance of the invading army to Pretoria, but why was the old bravery and tactical skill of the Boer conspicuously absent from those fights? Those characteristic qualities of the Boer race have possibly disappeared with the disappearance of Joubert and Cronje. When the god Srikrishna left this earth Arjun found himself unable even to lift his mighty bow, the *gandib*. The Boer race is now completely ruined. It is all over with them.

The fall of Pretoria brings peace to ourselves, to England and to the whole world. Let us all exclaim Hari, Hari, Hari!

The free Boer republics are now obliterated from the world's map. Krüger's pride is crushed and England's glory is enhanced. Let us all say—Hari, Hari, Hari!

Prosperity and power attend the nation which is rich in men and money. We have witnessed the truth of this. Pretoria has fallen and the English have gained their heart's wish. Let all men with a full heart say—Hari, Hari!

10. 'The *Dainik Chandraika* [Calcutta] of the 12th June writes as follows:—

How the Boer question should be settled.

We are not partisans of the Boers. Nay, we hate the Boers with our whole heart for having, like the Natal Government, used the Indian immigrants ill and committed oppressions upon them. The Boers are our enemies because they are the enemies of the English. But, for all that, we shall not hesitate to tell the truth which is that the English have done wrong by entering upon this war. It is for this reason that the whole world is to-day sympathising with the Boers. It is true not a single European Power has uttered a word in favour of the Boers or listened to their pitiable prayer for intervention. But who will believe that because the European Powers have remained listless and inactive, therefore

their sympathy is on the side of the English? They did not venture to interfere, first, because self-seeking as they all are, they saw that the present condition of European politics would not permit them to do so; and, secondly, because they foresaw that they would gain nothing themselves if the quarrel were compromised. By the immutable law of God, the Boers are about to suffer the consequence of their own action. But we ask the British Government not to hurriedly annex the two South African republics. Let the war come to an end, and let the people of England regain their mental equanimity. It will be then time to consider what should be done with these States. We make this request lest some hurried action would lead to further disturbance. Wise Englishmen should weigh this matter well before taking any action.

11. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 13th June has the following:—

Far from taking a part in these festivities and Indian feeling in the English rejoicings, we feel that a fear has seized our minds. rejoicings.

This is precisely the moment when the question occurs to us—Who are we? Where is our place in these rejoicings? Whenever the members of that powerful race, flushed with the fulness of victory and proud of its strength of arm, faintly and simultaneously raise the chorus of triumph in all countries bordering the four seas on this earth, we realise the immeasurable distance that separates them from us, who are a lifeless people who can point to no fame or mighty achievement, and, as we realise this, a deep dejection comes over us and makes us mute. Is not our place in these rejoicings that rage over the whole British Empire out of the doors? Canada, Australia, Cape Colony, England, Scotland and Ireland have all shed their blood, and in the bacchanalian rites of victory celebrated in South Africa they have all filled their glasses, be they large or small, with wine and drunk it. Are we their kith and kin? Are we given seats at the same table with them? If not, where is the necessity of enacting this most ludicrous hypocrisy, this strenuous attempt of ours, that is to say, of this fasting and debilitated people, to ostentatiously mix our weak voice with the thundering voice that issues from crores of British throats? It is a feast which Englishmen are to-day giving to their kinsmen. Australia, which drives us from her ports, occupies a seat on this festive board; Cape Colony, which chases us from street to street, sits in this company in the same line with the peers of noble birth. And we, black skeleton figures that we are, stand outside the precincts of this great festive hall, let off fireworks, make illuminations, and suddenly commence dancing. Why this *tamásā*?

When the victorious English flag was once brought low by the prowess of the Boer heroes, that was the time perhaps when we seemed to have come closer to Englishmen. Then did we feel for a moment as if the humbled Englishman had taken up an attitude of diffident friendliness and come down one step towards where we are. India, which only a few days before, had been stigmatised as seditious, so that preparations were made for binding her limb to limb with the chains of rigorous rule, was now proclaimed all over the world as devotedly loyal to British rule; and the Anglo-Indian's attitude of intolerable contempt for the natives seemed to have been relaxed for a time. For a moment the idea was produced in our minds that a generous treatment of even a fallen people like the Indians has some political value. And the idea was strengthened by the *Englishman* newspaper's altered attitude towards the natives.

But the moment success attended British arms, that same *Englishman* began to tear and mangle our bodies with its deadly claws. Nobody now required to be told that the small insignificant man who is vouchsafed a respectful treatment in the hour of danger becomes the most despised among men in the hour of prosperity. Anything that increases the pride of the powerful is a matter of grave anxiety to the weak. The intoxication of pride destroys sympathy, makes utter strangers of those who are not one's own people, and renders courteous treatment of the poor and luckless a matter of extreme difficulty.

For this reason, whatever efforts weak India may make to take a part in the rejoicings of the British Government, her heart, that is hidden within her, is troubled with fears and misgivings. How the fresh accession of power which the British Government has received will make itself felt on India's uncovered skin is to us a matter of anxiety. Signs of fear rather than of joy are visible in the midst of these rejoicings of ours. In saluting our victorious

PRABHAT,
June 13th, 1900.

rulers, we now bend ourselves much lower than before: we are concealing all our fears and doubts and trying to join in these rejoicings. Let them be propitious to us, and let not their haughtiness grow fiercer and consume us like fire.

PRABHAT.
June 13th, 1900.

12. The same paper has the following:—

We have one request to make to the British Government in the midst of the present rejoicings. Englishmen appreciate liberty and know how to honour a free people. Nothing is prouder than the words of the British poet, "Britons never shall be slaves." Up to the present the Boers have been a free people, either through the kindness of the English or for some other reason. They might have dealt haughtily with the English under the impression that they were their equals. But now their pride has been humbled. Englishmen ought now to forget the enmity which existed between them and the Boers, because the Boers are now a conquered people. Mr. Chamberlain says that the Boers will be subjected to a régime similar to that prevailing in India. But will that put a stop to all animosity on the part of the Boers? The Transvaal ought to be made a Crown Colony like Canada and Australia. The Boers may not enjoy independence again, but will they submit to a foreign yoke without further resistance? Will the Transvaal have a different set of laws, such as India has? It will not redound to England's glory if she forgives the Boers after conquering them.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

SANSODHINI,
May 25th, 1900.

A case of police oppression in Chittagong district.

13. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 25th May says that on the 15th May last some buffalo-sellers with some buffaloes were passing along the road near the Raujan police-station, in the Chittagong

district, to Akayab, when the buffaloes suddenly took fright and bolted towards the police-station, and in spite of the efforts of their keepers to quiet them, entered into the compound of the police-station. Girish Chandra De and Mahesh Chaudra De, two constables of the Raujan police-station, caught hold of two of the men in charge of the animals and beat them mercilessly in the presence of the Postmaster, Raujan Post Office, and the Excise Sub-Inspector. The poor men did not lodge any complaint against the constables, as they could not wait at Raujan. The attention of the police authorities is drawn to this incident.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 5th, 1900.

14. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 5th June has the following:—

A rumoured order of the Government of India in the Police Department.

The Government of India is said to have ordered that one-third of the total number of police Sub-Inspectors and half the number of

Inspectors in every district must be Europeans or Eurasians. This has caused much alarm among the public. Every one knows of the oppressions which are committed by the police, and it is feared that these oppressions will increase considerably under European and Eurasian Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors, whilst the way left open to the public to obtain redress will become narrower. We do not know if the rumour is true; but the action taken in regard to the admission of Europeans and Eurasians in the Military Department leads us to think that it may not be unfounded.

SANJIVANI,
June 7th, 1900.

15. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th June has the following:—

The Dinapore assault case.

Fourteen natives are rotting in the *hajat* for more than a month for assaulting three European soldiers

of the Dinapore Cantonment. The day following the assault some friends of the wronged soldiers entered the village and brought with them the son of a *dooli* bearer, and after confining him in a room in the cantonment bayoneted him almost to death. On the same day the soldiers chased three native bakers within the cantonment compound, two of whom escaped, but the third had a bayonet thrust into his abdomen. It is very curious that while the 14 natives are being tried by the Cantonment Magistrate for assaulting the soldiers, none of the soldiers have been arrested or tried for wounding the baker or the boy. Lord Curzon has issued certain new rules for the trial of soldiers who commit

oppressions on the natives. Will not the soldiers at Dinapore be brought to justice for these oppressions? And will not the Viceroy kindly interfere in this matter? The soldiers ought to be punished in the same way as the villagers.

16. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th June says that great injustice has been done to Babu Radha Govinda Kundu, late Sub-Inspector of Police, Madhupur. He is an able and high-minded officer

A good Sub-Inspector of Police
badly treated.
and was very popular in Madhupur. But for some reason or other he was suddenly transferred to Dumka, and then within a short time he has again been transferred to Pakour. Why has a good officer like Babu Radha Govinda been treated in this manner? Do not the authorities of the Police Department like able and high-minded officers? It is hoped Mr. Greer will send Rada Govinda Babu back to Madhupur.

HITAVADI,
June 8th, 1900.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

17. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 5th June has learnt from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that the Bench Magistrates

Interference with judicial pres-
tige in the Hooghly District.
at Bhadreswar, in the Hooghly District, acquitted the accused in five cases sent up by the police.

But the Subdivisional Officer of Serampore, being dissatisfied with this decision, sent the records of the cases to Mr. Inglis, the District Magistrate, Hooghly. Mr. Inglis wrote in reply that he had grave doubts about the correctness of the decisions and therefore ruled that in future all cases considered false by the Bench Magistrates should be sent to the file of the Subdivisional Officer. It seems from this that Bench Magistrates have power only to punish, but not to acquit. The prestige of the judiciary is greatly compromised by such interference.

18. The same paper says that, on the 1st June last, Babu Ghanasyam Gupta, Sub-ordinate Judge, Mymensingh, struck off some cases on account of the non-appearance, in time, of the pleaders of the parties. Of course, under the circumstances, Ghanasyam Babu had every right to act as he did. But he might have proceeded with other cases instead of striking off those in which pleaders had not yet appeared.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 5th, 1900.

CHARU MIHIR.

19. The same paper has the following:—

The travelling expenses of wit-
nesses in Sessions Courts in
Mymensingh. Many persons come to Mymensingh to give evidence in Sessions cases, but, in many instances, all the witnesses cited by the defence in a case are not examined. Some of the Judges refuse to pay the travelling and other expenses of a witness not examined, thereby causing much inconvenience to such witness. Instances can be cited in which low class Musalman witnesses have been compelled to pawn their umbrellas to get money for returning home. This state of things may be avoided if the Committing Magistrates be a little strict at the time of preparing lists of witnesses for the defence. It is not right to refuse to pay the travelling expenses of a witness after he has been summoned by the Court. If witnesses tell the truth and do not otherwise behave improperly, they are entitled to receive all the expenses incurred by them in attending a Court. This has been clearly laid down by the Government in answer to the letter of the Sessions Judge of Midnapore on the subject.

CHARU MIHIR.

20. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th June writes as follows:—

A coolie case in Assam.

One Mongari and her sister, Raghuvansia, served as coolies in the Puthini tea-garden in Assam. Mongari fell ill and, being unfit to work any longer, left the garden. While staying at the Karimganj hospital for treatment, she despaired of her life and wrote to her sister to come down, in order that she might have a last look at her. But Raghuvansia replied, after 20 or 25 days, that the manager of the garden had kept her confined and would on no account let her go. This pained Mongari, as Raghuvansia was only 16 or 17 years of age, and had entered into no agreement to serve in the garden. So, on regaining her health, Mongari on the

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 6th, 1900.

10th January last made a complaint before Mr. S. S. Skinner, Subdivisional Officer of Karimganj, and asked for a search-warrant. Mr. Skinner, though lawfully bound to issue a search warrant, refused under the circumstances to do so, and ordered only a letter to be written to the manager of the garden, requesting him to produce the girl in his Court within a week. The manager replied to the effect that Raghuvansia was 25 years of age; that her agreement would not expire before the 25th May; and that she was not willing to leave the garden. On receipt of this reply, Mr. Skinner ordered another letter to be written to the manager, telling him that the matter would end if the girl herself came before Mr. Skinner and told him that she was unwilling to leave the garden. In conclusion, Mr. Skinner wrote:—"I shall be obliged by the woman being produced for my inspection on or before the 24th January."

Mr. Skinner is a British Magistrate. So, what occasion was there for him to conduct himself in this unnecessarily humble and respectful manner towards an accused person? No Magistrate ever shows so much courtesy and respect even to an Indian Raja or Maharaja, who happens to come up as an accused person. Why then should mere managers of tea gardens be treated differently?

The manager did not reply to the Magistrate's second letter, and the latter sent a Head Constable to the tea-garden with a search warrant. The Head Constable reported that Raghuvansia had not been detained against her will; that she was in the garden of her own free will, and wished to remain there; that she said she was bound by an agreement; and that in the absence of the manager, the clerk told him that the girl would be produced before the Magistrate when the term of her agreement would expire. Mr. Skinner now received a letter from the manager, which was to the effect:—

"A constable came here to-day with a *parwana*. Raghuvansia is in the garden under an agreement. I can let her go, but you must take the responsibility of sending her back to her work. I believe you are acting unlawfully in this matter."

No wonder that the manager should write to the Magistrate in this impudent manner, seeing that the latter had compromised his own prestige as a British judicial officer by first writing to the manager in an undignified tone. It is very rare for a Magistrate to pocket such an insult, but Mr. Skinner did so. He, however, as the last recourse, sent another search warrant and had Raghuvansia brought before him. She was produced in court on the 10th March and deposed as follows:—

"I was six years on the Puthini tea-garden. I am bound by no agreement or condition. I am not willing to remain in the garden. I wish to go with my sister, Mongari."

The Magistrate ordered the girl to be detained in hospital for ten days more, and called upon the manager to produce within that period any documents he possessed in support of his case, ordering the girl to be released on the 29th March if no proofs of an agreement were produced. The manager produced no evidence. The appointed day passed away, but Raghuvansia was not released. She is said to have been released on the 26th May last. Is not Mr. Skinner bound to explain for what offence this poor girl was detained for two months?

21. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 7th June has the following:—

KHULNA,
June 7th, 1900.

Working of the Criminal Courts in the mufassil. The manner in which criminal justice is in most cases administered in this country is very strange, and reflects discredit on British rule; and, in the case of the lower mufassal Courts, is really scandalous. In these Courts pleaders and mukhtars are not allowed opportunities for proper cross-examination, because the Magistrates are always anxious to minimise their own labour. If a protest is made against the conduct of any Magistrate in this respect, the pleader or mukhtar who makes it incurs the Magistrate's displeasure, and his practice suffers in consequence. The parties, too, are undone if they venture to make any protest, because the party making it is sure to lose his case. In most cases Magistrates do not also care to listen to the arguments of pleaders and mukhtars, but go on writing judgments as soon as the examination of witnesses is finished.

In subdivisions, Magistrates have not in most cases any fixed hours of attendance. They come to Court at any hour of the day they please—seldom before 3 or 4 in the afternoon in the subdivisions. Parties are, therefore, quite uncertain as to the hour their cases would be called on; and so if they happen to be away for urgent reasons when the officers come in they run the risk of having their petitions rejected or their cases struck off. Coming to court so late, and having to clear their files, they cannot choose but hurry through cases with lightning speed. The mukhtars in a subdivision have to acquiesce in everything the Magistrate does on pain of incurring his displeasure and losing practice.

The Civil Courts work very differently from the Criminal Courts. Munsifs and Subordinate Judges treat pleaders with every consideration, and never conduct themselves whimsically like the criminal judiciary or lose their temper so easily as the latter.

22. The same paper has the following :—

The District Magistrate of Khulna in a case against a Euro-pean lady. Purna Chandra Chakravarti, a clerk in the Revaluation Department of the Khulna Collectorate, came by train from Daulatpur and having alighted

KHULNA,
June 7th, 1900.

at Khulna and passed the gate of the station, where Mrs. Lopez, nurse of the local plague hospital, stood examining the passengers, was talking to somebody about the unnecessary detention of a certain passenger, when Mrs. Lopez became angry and remonstrated with him in ungentlemanly and obscene language. Purna was taken aback and asked for the reason of the abuse. But this exasperated Mrs. Lopez the more and she again abused Purna. Babu Sasibhusan Sen, Sarishtadar of the Subordinate Judges's Court, was present and explained to Mrs. Lopez that her abuse of Purna was quite gratuitous, as the latter had said nothing to her. But Mrs. Lopez paid no heed to this and went on remonstrating with Purna. So far as we could ascertain, she used the following words to him :—“গুরু, তুমাকে বাড়া, হাতায় আস, তোমারা মুখ যে কৃতি যাবেন”

Being thus insulted, Purna instituted proceedings against Mrs. Lopez under section 504 of the Indian Penal Code. The District Magistrate, Mr. R. C. Hamilton, having been on tour at the time, the complaint was lodged before the Senior Deputy Magistrate in charge, Babu Gopal Chandra Mukharji, who took the complainant's deposition, issued a summons against the defendant and fixed the case for the 8th June. On the 26th May, Mr. Hamilton returned to Khulna, sent for the papers of the case, fixed a date for again taking the complainant's deposition and cancelled the order for the issue of a summons against the defendant. On the appointed date he sent the record to Deputy Magistrate Maulvi Mahiuddin, in order that that officer might take down the complainant's deposition. After that deposition had been taken, a date was fixed for an investigation previous to the issue of process. But Babu Kailas Chandra Chakravarti, Collectorate muharrir, who was a witness cited by the complainant, was examined on the day previous to the date so fixed, without any notice having been given to the complainant or his mukhtar. We do not know under what law this procedure was adopted. We do not know that such a procedure is sanctioned in the Criminal Procedure Code. It is in direct contravention to the provision relating to previous local investigation laid down in section 202 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. On the date fixed for the investigation, the complainant's pleader and mukhtar explained this to the Magistrate, but in vain. Mr. Hamilton's action in the case has been not only an insult to the Senior Deputy Magistrate, Babu Gopal Chandra Mukharji, but also *ultra vires*. We also know that when, on the 26th May, the complainant deposited summons fees Mr. Hamilton wrote the order 'issue summons' with his own hand, but on the same day he also passed an order for the re-examination of the complainant. Perhaps Mr. Hamilton had forgotten his first order when he issued his second. Such injustice is possible only in a country like India, and such unlawful action is possible only in a small district like Khulna.

Though the case was proved by the evidence of several respectable men, Mr. Hamilton dismissed it as false. In the course of his judgment he wrote :— “Damn, stupid, *sala*, &c., these are expressions Babus use among themselves, but women of European extraction do not, except perhaps ‘stupid.’”

Was the case disposed of in this manner, because Purna is only a poor clerk under the District Magistrate himself ?

HITAVADI,
June 8th, 1900.

23. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th June has received a contradiction of the report that Maulvi Bazlal Karim, Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah, conducted himself dis-
courteously towards a railway passenger at the Howrah Station (see Report on Native Papers for 9th June, paragraph 13). The contradiction states that the Maulvi was guilty of no discourtesy, but it was the other passenger concerned who ruffled the Maulvi by his rudeness.

HITAVADI.

24. The same paper says:—

Mr. Godfrey, Subdivisional Officer of Jamtara. The charges which have been brought by certain petitioners against Mr. Godfrey, Subdivisional Officer of Jamtara in the Sonthal Parganas, are very serious. But we do not know how far they are correct. Similar charges were at one time brought against Mr. Heard, Subdivisional Officer of Deoghur, and though we adduced documentary and uncontestable proof of Mr. Heard's guilt, thanks to the good offices of his friends and the Government's anxiety to maintain its own prestige, he was not checked in any way. It will be a great discredit to British rule, if, under a just ruler like Sir John Woodburn, the Jamtara scandals are hushed up in a similar manner.

HITAVADI.

25. Referring to the occurrence between certain European soldiers of the Dinapore Cantonment and some native residents of the place (paragraph 15) the same paper writes as follows:—

All native residents of Dinapore are being oppressed and harassed, simply because some of them had beaten three European soldiers, and yet the authorities are not moving a finger. But in the case of the soldiers against the natives, the police are arresting the villagers in bodies, as if the latter had committed some heinous offence. Though it was pitch dark when the soldiers were beaten, the soldiers and the coachman who had driven them to the village identified the assailants, and one is expected to believe this identification as correct ! All who have been arrested in this case have been sent to *hajat*. But the soldiers who drove a knife through the abdomen of the native baker and inflicted bayonet wounds on the *dooli* bearer's son have not been molested in any way and are living freely ! Such daring partiality and such difference in the treatment of different classes of the subject people do not certainly become British rule.

But the matter has not ended here. A strange case has been instituted in which some of the men, who have been suspected as having beaten the soldiers, have been prosecuted for having assaulted one Babujan—a Pathan woman—and attempted to murder her two sons. Some ten or twelve persons were arrested on Babujan's complaint and bail was taken from all of them. Only two of these, however, have been sent up for trial.

The story told by Babujan before the Cantonment Magistrate differed materially from the story she had told to the police, and everybody anxiously waits for the story she will tell at the trial. This case has been looking rather mysterious from the very commencement. It is a mystery to us why it is being tried at Dinapore, seeing that it is alleged to have occurred within the jurisdiction of the Magistrate of Bankipore. We wait to see where this Dinapore affair will end under a ruler like Sir John Woodburn.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
June 11th, 1900.

26. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th June is sorry to hear from a correspondent that the Cantonment Magistrate of Meerut has refused to take an application in the Nagri character submitted to him by one Lala Har Prashad. There are two or three men in the Court of that Cantonment Magistrate who can read and write the Nagri character, still the application was rejected. The higher authorities ought to direct their attention to the matter.

(d) — Education.

27. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 8th June says that since the establishment of Universities in India, only on three occasions have natives of the country been appointed to the Vice-Chancellorship. The Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
June 8th, 1900.

The Hon'ble Dr. Guru Das Banerji was once appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University; and Kasinath Trimbak Telang and after him Dr. Ram Krishna Gopal Bhandurkar were appointed Vice-Chancellors of the Bombay University. The Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University has just now fallen vacant, and it is rumoured that a native will be appointed to it. It is certain that the appointment of natives to this office from time to time is calculated to encourage learning, and there are native gentlemen in Calcutta whose appointment to the Vice-Chancellorship will add to the glory of the office. As all the native gentlemen hitherto appointed to Vice-Chancellorships have been Hindus, it is hoped that the choice will this time fall on a Musalman. The Hon'ble Mr. Amir Ali will make a very good Vice-Chancellor.

(e) — Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

28. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 5th June has the following in continuation of what it wrote in a previous issue

The Subdivisional Officer of Jamalpur, Mymensingh and the local Municipality. against the Subdivisional Officer of Jamalpur, in the Mymensingh district (See Report on Native Papers for week ending 9th June, para. 22.)

CHARU MIHIR,
June 5th, 1900.

We learn that Sris Babu has not yet stopped trying to have the Police Inspector of Jamalpur elected as the Chairman of the Jamalpur Municipality. There are few Commissioners in the Municipality who can oppose his influence. Many of the Commissioners have unwillingly consented to support him, fearing to incur his displeasure and the displeasure of the police.

29. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 6th June contains the following complaints against the Barisal Municipality:—

Complaints against the Barisal Municipality.

(1) Though Babu Dines Chandra Guha, a resident and rate-payer of the Municipality has

been paying his rates regularly, the head jamadar has ordered his privy to be closed.

(2) The building regulations in vogue in the Municipality prohibit the erection of straw huts within the municipal precincts. But the authorities are enforcing the law only in the case of beggars and poor men, well-to-do people possessing such huts not being molested.

(3) Milk vendors adulterating milk with water are prosecuted, although the law permits only the destruction of adulterated milk in the first instance, and requires a prosecution only when the seller of any adulterated substance does not consent to such destruction.

30. The *Sri Sri Vishnupriya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th June has the following:—

Government and malaria.

The havoc and desolation done by malaria in

Bengal first attracted the attention of Lord Northbrook. The spectacle of whole villages, once the favoured abodes of health, peace and prosperity, in the vicinity of the metropolis of British India, gradually becoming through the ravages of that fell epidemic a scene of ruin and decay, so powerfully moved the heart of that sympathetic Viceroy that he determined to find out a remedy. In July 1872, Lord Northbrook's Government offered a prize for the best essay to be submitted within one year on the origin and prevention of malarial fever. But not one of the essays sent in was considered up to the mark. The epidemic went on spreading, but neither Government nor the people could ascertain its causes or devise measures for its prevention. In the autumn of 1873, a virulent type of malarial fever broke out in the districts of Burdwan, Hooghly, Midnapore and Birbhum. Dr. Greene, the then Civil Medical Officer of Serampore, submitted a report on the disease in which he characterised it as a form of typhoid fever which owed its origin to bad drainage, and lack of conservancy and sanitary arrangements in the villages. This report was forwarded to Dr. Norman Chevers for opinion. Dr. Chevers

BARISAL HITAISHI,
June 6th, 1900.

**SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,**
June 6th, 1900.

did not agree in the view that the fever which then raged in Burdwan and other districts near Calcutta was typhoid, and expressed his opinion that it was only a virulent form of malarial fever, and that considering the enfeebled stamina of the people caused by poverty, insufficient food and disregard of hygienic rules, it was no wonder that the disease had been attended with such fearful mortality. He also stated his conviction that the disease was preventible and that its best antidote was quinine, but as quinine did not prove quite efficacious in cases of chronic debility brought on by insufficient food, the best means of prevention would be found in an improvement of the material condition of the people, making it possible for them to get better food and clothing and observe the rules of hygiene. Colonel Haig and Dr. Sanders too, held similar views on the question. They said:—

"Endemic disease has become general not from any increased potency of malaria, but from diminished power of resistance in the constitution of the people, brought on by insufficient food and general poverty."

Now, all this was brought to the notice of Government and it was found that it accepted the medical testimony referred to above, but did it adopt any measures to improve the material condition of the people, to give them better food and clothing, or to provide them with good medical treatment? Of course, they were at that time supplied by Government with abundant quinine, but it was patent to everybody that quinine failed to do any lasting good.

Government is fully aware that poverty is the principal cause of malaria and other epidemics, and that if their poverty be removed, the people can be kept free from disease to a large extent. But what can Government do in this matter? Every thing depends on expenditure of money.

Government appointed Commissioners to inquire into the cause of malaria, decided upon the adoption of measures for its prevention and sent doctors with medicines to the malaria-stricken localities. The people contracted the habit of taking quinine, and the abuse of quinine rendered their bodies more emaciated and prone to disease. But all this did not put a stop to decrease of population or improve the health of the country. Some years passed away in this way. There were thousands and thousands of deaths, but nothing could arrest the progress of malaria. Government looked on in utter helplessness. Of course those died who were doomed to die, and those escaped who were destined to live. The followers of Malthus and Mill who regard epidemics as the inevitable result of overcrowding, saw that over-prosperous villages were soon denuded of their inhabitants and converted into forests, the favourite haunts of wild beasts. Dr. Chevers believed that it was, therapeutically speaking, a comparatively easy task to cope with malaria, but that malaria has now converted prosperous and flourishing localities into a howling wilderness. Thanks to Darwin's theory regarding the survival of the fittest we are still living. But the mere thought whether so many people would have met with premature death, if Government had adopted all those measures which it believed necessary for the prevention of malaria, gives us extreme pain.

31. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th June writes as follows:—

The Jaynagar Municipality in the 24-Parganas district.

An election of Municipal Commissioners was held in the Jaynagar Municipality, in the 24-Parganas district, more than a month ago. But as the zamindar party did not derive much advantage from it, the Chairman, Babu Annada Chandra Ghosh, with the consent of the District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas, cancelled the election on the plea that timely notice of it had not been given and issued notice for a re-election to be held on the 18th June. In the last election, Babu Hem Chandra Ghose, a cousin of the chairman, was a candidate for election, but was defeated by his rival candidate. Babu Kedar Nath Datta, a pleader, is a candidate for the coming election. Babu Biraj Krishna Datta, Vice-Chairman of the Municipality, against whom a petition has been submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor for the oppressions committed by him for the last three years, has stood as a rival of Kedar Babu, seeing that he has no chance of being nominated by the Government. Kedar Babu pays the income, license and municipal taxes and is therefore fully qualified to be a Commissioner according to the municipal law. His only fault is that he instituted a suit against the Municipality for excessive assessment. The Chairman has, however,

SANJIVANI,
June 7th, 1900.

removed his name from the list of voters on receiving an application from a protégé of the Vice-chairman and has thus brushed away all obstacles from the path of Biraj Babu. Kedar Babu appealed to the District Magistrate against this order of the Chairman, and the 2nd June last was fixed as the day for the hearing of his case by Babu Chandra Narain Singh, Deputy Magistrate. On the appointed day, Babu Hemendra Nath Mitra, pleader for Kedar Babu, was told by the Deputy Magistrate that he had confirmed the order of the Chairman removing Kedar Babu's name from the list of voters, being satisfied with the Chairman's explanation and that no further action would be taken in the matter. It is not the practice of the law courts to summarily try a suit in the absence of the complainant. Everybody can understand why the ordinary rules of procedure were not followed in this case.

Babu Kali Nath Datta lives within the limits of the municipality. The Chairman gave him a notice requiring him to part with a portion of the land attached to his house on the ground that the land belonged to the municipality. Babu Kali Nath Datta wrote a letter to the Chairman, showing that he had not encroached on municipal land and the commissioners in their meeting decided in his favour. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman then requested Kali Babu to make a gift of the land to the municipality. Kali Babu consented to part with his land on the municipality undertaking to proclaim by beat of drum that Kali Babu had not encroached on municipal land but had made a gift of it to the municipality. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman consented to this. But though more than a year has passed away no notice of the proposed gift has been given nor has any proclamation been made by beat of drum as agreed upon. And though a formal deed of gift was not executed still the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the zamindar-commissioner Babu Benoy Krishna Dutt occupied the land by pulling down the fence on the 2nd June last, taking advantage of Kali Babu's absence from home. Kali Babu's son took five days' time to consult the wish of his father. Kali Babu has served a notice on these 3 men requiring them not to occupy the land by force. The Datta zamindars are committing various oppressions on the people as municipal commissioners. Let us see where the oppression ends.

The editor requests the Lieutenant-Governor to keep a strict eye on the doings of this municipality.

32. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th June says the Government has Water scarcity in the Bengal a large number of subjects who live in villages and villages are agriculturists by profession. A considerable amount of revenue is levied from these men. It

HITAVADI,
June 8th, 1900.

is the duty of Government to look to their safety and comfort and see that they do not suffer from water scarcity. Of course, Government cannot be said to be wholly indifferent in this matter. As far as reports, resolutions and speeches are concerned, no highly placed English official shows any apathy, on the contrary, the authorities rather talk and write too much on this question of water scarcity. But nobody seems willing to come forward with offers of money and really business-like proposals. That is why the villagers cry in vain. This problem of water scarcity will have to be solved some day, though it is doubtful whether the present generation will live to see it.

33. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 11th June is sorry that an order Proposed dog killing in Brinda- is going to be issued for the killing of the dogs that ban. will be found straying in Brindaban. Such a measure was never allowed even during the Mughal rule.

BHARAT MITRA,
June 11th, 1900.

34. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th June has the following:—

The Honourable Mr. Oldham as a Municipal Commissioner. According to the new law a member of the general committee of the Calcutta municipality is entitled to receive Rs. 16 for attending any meeting of the committee. The Honourable Mr. Oldham is an active member of the general committee and attends every meeting of it, but he has not up to this time taken any fee for his attendance. His disinterestedness as a well-wisher of the municipality is, really, praiseworthy. Many people will say that as Mr. Oldham is in the receipt of a handsome salary, he can well resist the small temptation of 16 rupees. But are there no other officials in the general committee, besides

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
June 13th, 1900.

Mr. Oldham, who, like him, draw handsome salaries and yet pocket these small fees? Mr. Oldham is a high-minded Civilian.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

HITAVADI,
June 8th, 1900.

35. One Gopi Mohan Das writing in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th June, from Ghageya in the Rangpur district, says that, on the 27th April last, he was travelling from Rangpur to Manihari Ghat by rail. On reaching Parbatipur at 9 P.M., he had to change the train. The compartment of the train he was about to enter contained only a couple of passengers, but a constable of the Railway Police, who was standing at the door of the compartment, forbade him and all other passengers to enter it. The correspondent and another passenger, finding no accommodation elsewhere, at last took their seats in the compartment in question. The constable attempted to drag out the second passenger, and on the correspondent remonstrating, threatened to expel him also. The correspondent, however, took up a militant attitude, and the constable moved away without more ado.

Subsequently, another constable, probably under the influence of some gratification, forcibly accommodated a passenger in the same compartment, and told the correspondent and his companion to alight from it. On protest, he showed his fist to the correspondent, and threatened to expel him from the compartment if he uttered another word.

Parbatipur is an important station, and the station authorities ought to put down such high-handedness on the part of the Railway Police there.

HIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
June 8th, 1900.

36. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 8th June draws attention to the sufferings of railway passengers at the Maslandapur station on the Bengal Central Railway, in consequence of there being no arrangement for the supply of drinking-water even during the hottest months of the year. There is no tank near the station. There is a well which was sunk by the Railway authorities, but it is waterless. It was once re-excavated, but the water so obtained did not last for more than three or four days. Taking pity on the suffering passengers, the station-master once more wrote to the Railway authorities praying for the re-excavation of the well, but the authorities took no action in the matter. Considering the urgency of the case, the station-master, at last, sent up a telegram on the subject. But instead of taking any action thereon, the authorities grew offended with the station-master for having used the telegraph line for such a purpose and fined him two rupees. One fails to understand how the station-master made a wrong use of the telegraph line. The telegram he sent was intended to draw the attention of the authorities to a crying want of the passengers, and, perhaps, none but the authorities of the Bengal Central Railway will say that the station-master acted wrongly. It is the native passengers who maintain the line, but they are so unfortunate as not to get even drinking-water at all the stations. The Railway authorities should personally see the sufferings of passengers at the Maslandapur station and pardon the station-master.

The Chairman of the 24-Parganas District Board is requested to have a tank or well excavated near this station.

BASIRHAT SUHRID,
June 9th, 1900.

37. The *Basirhat Suhrid* [Basirhat] of the 9th June says that the road to village Ghalghalia, in the Satkhira subdivision of the Khulna district, which runs from Sankra to Sripur, is in a very deplorable condition for want of repairs and causes much inconvenience to the public.

(h)—*General.*

CHAR MIHIR,
June 5th, 1900.

38. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 5th June has the following:—
Bengalis forbidden to apply for clerkships in the North-Western Provinces. Some temporary clerks being needed in the Chief Commissariat Office, Allahabad, a notice has been given inviting Eurasians, Musalmans, Native Christians, East Indians and the Hindus of the North-Western Provinces to apply for those posts, but Bengalis have been forbidden to apply for them. So, it is clear Bengalis have not the right even to apply for posts left open to East

Indians. It cannot be said that Bengalis are incompetent to perform the duties of petty clerks in the Commissariat Department. What, then, is their fault? Why have they become an eyesore to Europeans? The Queen's Proclamation has been trampled under foot by this notification which will have the effect of fostering race antagonism among Her Majesty's subjects. We therefore draw the Viceroy's attention to this notification.

39. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th June says that some temporary clerks being needed for the Commissariat Office, Exclusion of Bengalis from the Commissariat Office. Allahabad, the military authorities have invited Eurasians, Musalmans, Native Christians, East

Indians and Hindus of the North-Western Provinces to apply for these posts, and have forbidden Bengalis to apply for them. It is not known what the Bengalis have done to incur so much displeasure of the authorities. The posts which are open to Eurasians and East Indians are not to be had by Bengalis. The Queen's Proclamation declaring all classes of Her Majesty's subjects equally eligible for Government service, irrespective of caste and creed, is still in force. Are Bengalis, then, not subjects of the Queen-Empress?

40. The same paper has the following with reference to the result of the examination for admission to the Executive branch The last Provincial Civil Service Examination. of the Provincial Civil Service:—

There was no use holding a competitive examination if only one post was to be filled by competition and the rest of the vacancies by nomination in disregard of the claims of deserving candidates. More posts were filled by competition in previous years and the number of applicants was, therefore, very large in those years. But only 50 or 60 people applied this year for admission to the examination. At least two-thirds of the vacancies ought to be thrown open to competition.

41. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th June has the following:—

The condition of Bankura and the Lieutenant-Governor's approaching visit to the district. The people of Bankura are delighted to hear that Sir John Woodburn will visit their district in July or August next. Bankura is the poorest of

the Bengal districts and possesses no facilities of communication by rail or boat. This latter fact stands in the way of Bankura being favoured with visits by the ruler of the province. There are few Governors so mindful of their duty as rulers and so anxious to promote the welfare of the subject people as Sir John Woodburn, and His Honour is sure to meet with a most loyal and cordial reception when he visits that district. Now as to the condition of Bankura town and district. Formerly Part IX of the Bengal Municipal Act was not in force in the Bankura Municipality for the simple reason that though nominally a town, Bankura is very small in area and its inhabitants live like villagers. There were then no latrines in the houses of the residents. A latrine-tax was, however, imposed in 1891 and the proceeds of the tax amounted to two thousand rupees a year. Many people have no latrines and yet have to pay the latrine tax. When Sir Charles Elliott visited Bankura, the residents prayed that the tax might be abolished, but their prayer was refused. The existing latrines are not properly served, and their contents are allowed to flow into the roadside drains, most of which being *kutcha*, the soil is saturated with the sewage. These foul drains have become a danger to the health and comfort of the residents. For want of water even the *pucka* drains are not properly flushed and cleansed. There is nobody to supervise the work of the mehters and the conservancy coolies. The Commissioners are perfectly indifferent in the matter. The house-tax has been increased by 25 per cent., but there are no arrangements for watering the streets and cleansing the drains. The rate-payers are daily losing their confidence in the municipality. The sides of the tanks within municipal limits are fouled and the number of lights is small. There are no more than three public urinals in the town and yet people are daily fined for committing nuisance in public places. The Municipal Vice-Chairman is overworked and complaints are neither enquired into nor removed.

42. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th June says that Mr. Badcock, head of the Chief Commissariat Office, Calcutta, is not well disposed towards his clerks. He did not close his office on the occasion of the last Christmas

SANJIVANI,
June 7th, 1900.

SANJIVANI

BANKURA DARPAN,
June 8th, 1900.

HITAVADI,
June 8th, 1900.

A Government office kept open during certain holidays.

BANGABANDHU,
June 9th, 1900.

holidays nor on the occasion of the late Hindu festival Dasahara, and intended this as a punishment for the anonymous letters he often receives.

43. The Bangabandhu [Chandernagore] of the 9th June says that Mr. Gayer, the Superintendent of Stationery, Culcutta, has withheld the payment of the salaries of all assistants in his office for the loss of a padlock, which has been either stolen or mislaid, and has ordered that their salaries shall not be paid until the missing article is recovered. Now, Mr. Gayer is, equally with his assistants, responsible for the loss, and it would be interesting to know how delighted he would feel or how keenly he would appreciate the reasonableness of the action if, following his example, Government fastened on him the responsibility for the loss of the padlock and stopped his pay.

44. The Pioneer thinks it its duty, says the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 11th June, to create ill-feeling between Hindus and Musalmans against Hindus. The *Pioneer* exciting Musalmans. The Hindus are well aware of the motives of that paper, but it is a regret that Musalmans take the *Pioneer* for their well-wisher. The *Pioneer* makes the Musalmans understand that the Hindus who are hostile to them will anyhow get the Persian character abolished from the courts of the North-Western Provinces. What was to happen has happened. Now it rests with the Musalmans either to create a disturbance or to rest satisfied.

45. The Prativasi [Calcutta] of the 11th June writes that it having been brought to the notice of the Viceroy that a certain Government office had been kept open on Good Friday, Lord Curzon has ordered that in future all Government offices must remain closed on Sundays and other Christian holidays. But is not Lord Curzon aware that the European heads of the Government offices do not always close their offices during Hindu festivals too? Will he not put a stop to such whimsical acts of the European officials?

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

DAINIK SAMACHAR,
June 12th, 1900.

46. The Dainik Samachar [Calcutta] of the 12th June has the following:—
Lord Curzon on the closing of public offices on Christian holidays.
Relief operations in Jeypore. The Government of India offered to help the Jeypore State in relieving the distress of the famine-stricken people in that State. But the Maharaja has declined outside help as his State is fully able to cope with the prevailing distress with its own resources. The Jeypore State is always solvent and it is stated in a local newspaper that the relief operations are being conducted with greater success there than in any other place. This is, indeed, Jeypore's glory. The Bengalis cannot but be elated with joy to hear of the excellent relief arrangements made in that State, because Rao Kanti Chandra Mukherji, C.I.E., Bahadur, the Prime Minister of the Maharaja, is a Bengali.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

**SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,**
June 8th, 1900.

47. The Sambalpur correspondent of the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th June, writes as follows from Jharsogra:—

Many famine-stricken people from the Nagpur district have taken shelter about this place and some have also gone towards Khurruckpore. They are miserably clad. I had a talk with a man named Krishna, who told me that his wife and a widowed sister had already gone to Khurruckpore. He had heard that coolies were being paid three annas per head at that place, whilst in his part of the country he received only five pice a day. He was removing to Khurruckpore, because his poor earning of five pice a day was not sufficient to maintain himself, his boy and a daughter. He is a *kotwal* by caste. His caste occupation is that of a weaver; but men of his caste also cultivate land. Last year he got no outturn from his field nor could he earn anything from his loom, and he has, therefore, come to his present condition. He has, as a last resource, sold off his plough cattle for Rs. 12 and paid his railway fare with the money. His only hope is that if he and his wife can together earn six annas a day, they would live comfortably. Some

household furniture which he was carrying showed that he was at one time a well-to do man. His two children could not walk without assistance. In his village rice was selling at 9 seers per rupee. People who are leaving Nagpur say that they would not have left their homes if they had received on the Government relief works something more than they did.

48. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th June, refers to the adverse criticism made by a correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* of the relief arrangements in the Bombay

Famine relief inadequate.

Presidency and says—

Thanks to the faulty arrangements made by Government, the rigour of the rules and the dishonesty of *mudis* and subordinate officers, poor, helpless, houseless and starving people are dying in large numbers and the country is being depopulated. Lord Curzon loudly proclaimed at the Town Hall meeting that arrangements were going to be made which would render the occurrence of a single death from starvation impossible. It is true no Indian is dying of starvation, but as the result of living on half rations and silently suffering the pangs of hunger, Indians are now dying in crowds from cholera, which comes in the wake of famine. If even now the rigour of the rules be relaxed and the work of relief be conducted as a man in the possession of a feeling heart ought to conduct it, the sufferings of the unhappy people may be mitigated to a slight extent, or it will all end in paper criticism and paper eulogies.

49. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 13th June contains a cartoon in which an Indian nobleman is represented as handing a

A cartoon.

purse containing fifteen lakhs of rupees to a young

Englishman in the likeness of Lord Curzon seated on a chair, and near whose feet are ranged several bags of money. Whilst handing the money, the nobleman has his left hand turned towards some famine-stricken people as if telling them to wait.

The letter-press in English is as follows:—

"Whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance. But whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Math. 13, 12."

This is explained in Bengali as follows:—

"According to the *Dharma Sastras*, if Syam has more money than Ram, Syam is entitled to get Ram's money."

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

50. The *Bangabandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 9th June has the following:

A letter on the Government's plague policy translated from the *Pioneer*.

In the *Pioneer* of the 11th April last appeared a letter on the plague policy of the British Government. A Bengali translation of the letter was

published in the issue of this paper for the 28th idem. [Report on Native Papers for the 5th May 1900, paragraph 62.] The fact that room was found for the letter in a paper like the *Pioneer* led us to conclude that the editor had published it after satisfying himself that there was some truth in the charges made by the writer. As the letter was not written by any of our own correspondents, it is needless to say that the views regarding the British Government expressed therein were not our views. We merely reproduced as a "document" a letter which was published in an influential anti-native English journal with a view of informing the public what some people thought of the plague rules. We have no quarrel with the British Government, but we are told by certain highly placed gentlemen that the letter in question is such as to excite sedition, and the fact of its appearance in a newspaper which is published at a French settlement is calculated to cause ill-feeling between the English and the French. We did not know before that we possessed so much influence. We did not even dream that anything that we might say could cause rebellion in the empire. It is not our wish, as it is certainly not the wish of any educated man, to create rebellion. But it is doubtless the duty of all newspapers to acquaint the authorities with the views and opinions of the masses. This is clearly an advantage to the rulers, who can by this means adopt preventive and remedial measures. The Cawnpore riots furnish

HITAVADI,
June 8th, 1900.

PRABHAT,
June 13th, 1900.

BANGABANDHU,
June 9th, 1900.

an excellent illustration in point. Be that as it may, when the letter in question is regarded in high quarters as a document calculated to excite sedition, we beseech our readers as well as the public to bear in mind that the views stated in the letter are not our views.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
May 23rd, 1900.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
May 23rd, 1900.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

UTKALDIPKA,
May 26th, 1900.

51. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 23rd May approves of that ruling of the High Court of Bombay, which enjoins on Magistrates to enquire whether the accused persons, who are sent up for trial as persons confessing their crimes, had been tortured to do so, and whether any marks are visible on their bodies, and, in the event of any such bodily mark being found, to send the accused to the Doctor for examination. The writer observes that though this ruling is a good one, the police may contrive to oppress and torture without producing any mark on the body.

52. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 23rd May is sorry to notice that a proposal is going on to further disarm the natives of India by declaring *lathis* to be arms under the Indian Arms Act, and states that all means of self-defence are being thus taken away one after one.

53. The same paper reports an accident that took place near Kharakpur where the mail train collided against a number of carriages that had come out of their way by the force of the wind. Though there was no death passengers were injured in various ways. What due to this cause, many aggravated the difficulty of the situation was that the accident took place on a dark and stormy night, and that the railway authorities attended only to the comforts and conveniences of the European passengers, leaving the native passengers to their fate.

54. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 26th May is sorry to notice that the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, has shown poor results in the last B.A. examination of the Calcutta University, only four having passed out of 23 sent up.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 16th June, 1900.